Constitution of dealer selection boards

1457. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any radical changes were made in the Constitution of the Dealer Selection Boards since 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the reasons for such changes; and

(c) in what manner it affected the nature and rationale of selection of petrol/LPG dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No radical changes were made in the constitution of the Dealer Selection Boards after 1999 except that Retired Additional District Judges/ Retired Officers who had held equivalent judicial posts, were made eligible for appointment as Chairmen.

Import of petrol and natural gas from Bangladesh

†1458. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import petrol and natural gas from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(c) if so, the deails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) There is no proposal for import of petrol from Bangladesh. It has been decided to import natural gas from Bangladesh. However, Government of Bangladesh has not taken any decision about export of Natural Gas to India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reduction of manpower in ONGC and BPCL

1459. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to cut as many as 5600 jobs at the State run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) in what manner Government are planning to implement this proposal; and

(d) the other steps taken to help the above companies to become competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have reported that they do not have proposal for retrenchment of their employees. However, both these public sector units have embarked upon an organizational restructuring exercise to address the imbalances in availability and requirement of manpower throughout the organization and are, therefore, proposing to introduce an attractive Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) so that repositioning of the staff across the organisation may be achieved after the exit of VRS optees. In addition these Corporations have been duly empowered under the Navratna dispensation.

Oil refinery at Paradip

1460. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC has deferred construction of the proposed oil refinery at Paradip for some years; if so, the reasons therefor and also the time by when construction would be resumed;

(b) whether this delay would escalate the cost of construction; if so, by how much; and

(c) the details of amount already invested in land acquisition and other preliminary civil works?